

Fort Washington

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Fort Washington Park
Maryland



Fort Washington Park Junior Ranger Booklet

Welcome to Fort Washington Park!

Welcome Junior Ranger!

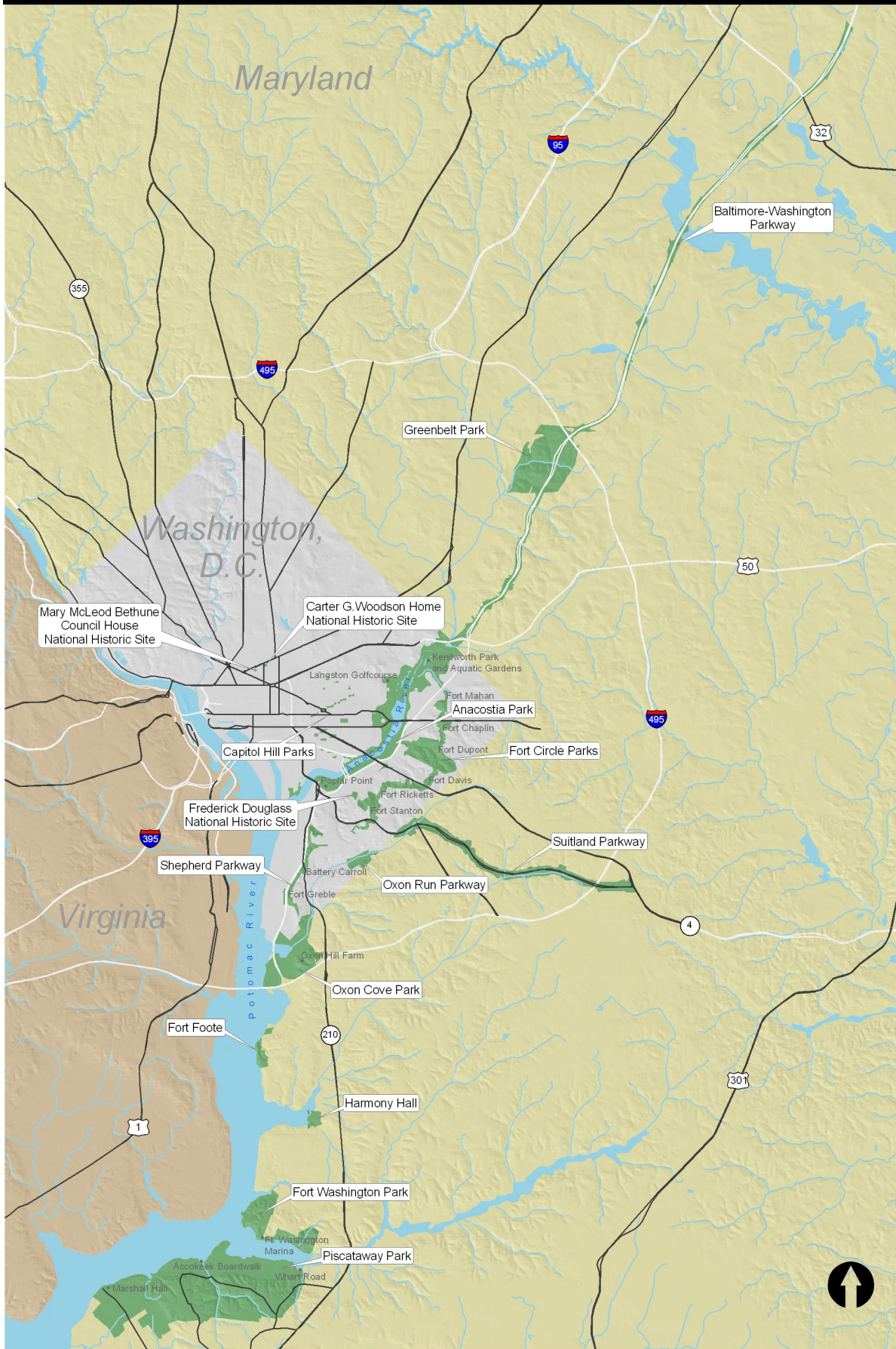
Fort Washington Park (FOWA) welcomes you as a Junior Park Ranger. FOWA is one of the many jewels of the National Park System dedicated to preserving resources and providing safe and enjoyable experiences for this and future generations. Fort Washington Park is one of 5 national park sites in southern Maryland that were established to protect and preserve our natural, cultural, historical, and recreational parklands located along the Potomac River in southern Maryland. For more information, visit www.nps.gov/fowa.

FOWA Jr. Ranger books and programs are stepping stones to learn more about the National Park Service, while making a difference for years to come. Any comments or questions about this booklet or Junior Ranger programs are welcomed and should be sent to:

Fort Washington Park
Attn: Junior Ranger Program
13551 Fort Washington Road
Fort Washington, MD 20744
301-763-4600
NACE_Fort_Washington_Park@nps.gov

We thank you for your interest in Fort Washington Park and hope that this booklet sparks an interest for you to explore, learn, and protect your national parks.







Welcome to Fort Washington Park

Junior Rangers are important to the future of national parks! You'll learn about national parks, help preserve our nation's history, and also protect our natural and cultural resources. As a Junior Ranger, you will also help others learn about national parks and help to protect parks for all to enjoy, now and in the future.

To become a Junior Ranger at Fort Washington Park, you need to do the following:

- Read and sign the Junior Ranger pledge below
- Ages 6—9, complete 6 of 11 activities
- Ages 10—12, complete 9 of 11 activities

When you are ready, share your book with a park ranger and receive your Junior Ranger Badge!

Remember to try to do most of the work yourself, but ask a park ranger, parent, or family member if you have questions. The answers can be found in the visitor center, the historic fort, the park brochures, or online.

Junior Ranger Pledge

Date _____

As a Junior Ranger, I pledge to preserve and protect Fort Washington Park.

I will learn more about the War of 1812, the Civil War, American History, and

Nature. When I return home to _____ *I will share what*
(Hometown)

I learned with others. In the future, I will work to protect the parks, our history,

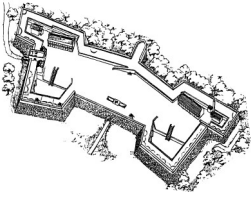
and the environment. Through my actions, future generations may enjoy them like

I have.

X _____
(Name)

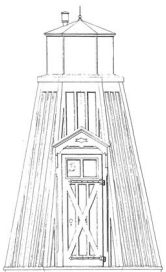
Facts about the Park

- George Washington chose this location known as Digges Point in 1798 to build a fort because it was a defensible position due to its proximity to the river runs past it. The first six acres of land was purchased in 1808.
- Robert E. Lee of the Corps of Engineers made suggestions on improvements to Fort Washington in the 1840's. Later, Lee chose to leave the Union Army and join the Confederacy and became one of their best generals.



- Fort Washington is known as a Horn Work fort because of its shape. When looking at the fort, the demi-bastions appear to form the shape of horns protruding from the main body of the fort.
- Prior to the start of the Civil War, Ordnance Sargent Joseph Cameron was the only person stationed at Fort Washington, from 1853-1861.

- During World War II, Fort Washington was a training school for the Adjutant General Corps which provides the administration duties for the military. In addition to the Adjutant General School, the Women's Army Corps was stationed here from 1942 to 1943.
- The eight concrete structures are known as Endicott Batteries. These batteries were named for William Endicott who served as the Secretary of War from 1885 to 1889. Each battery would have had two cannons or guns on them ranging in size from 3 inches to 10 inches.
- On January 5, 1861, Captain Algernon S. Taylor arrived at Fort Washington with 40 Marines to garrison the fort and prepare it for any hostilities. Captain Taylor would later resign his commission and join the Confederacy.



- In 1857, at the request of the Lighthouse Board, the first lighthouse was placed into service with the permission of the Secretary of War Jefferson Davis, who later became the President of the Confederate States of America.
- The Alger Test took place at the fort in 1899. This test was an experiment to see if the new seacoast batteries (Endicott Batteries) could be redesigned using sand in the front instead of concrete.
- Fort Warburton's name came from the manor home of the Digges Family who owned the property before the U.S. Government purchased it. The name changed to Fort Washington sometime after 1810.
- The counterscarp gallery on the south-side of the fort was built to protect the fort from a land attack coming up from Piscataway Creek. At the time of the fort's construction the creek allowed large ships to sail into it. This is not the case today.

Natural or Cultural

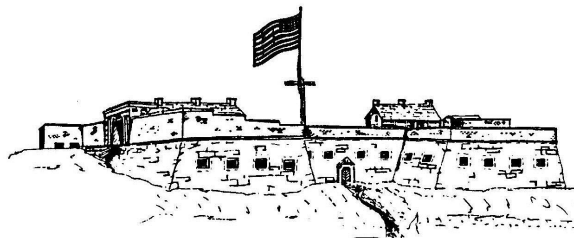
The mission of the National Park Service is to protect the nation's natural and cultural resources. Below are the definitions of those terms and some things you might see in the national parks. See if you can organize the items by drawing a line into the correct category .



A lighthouse



A deer



A fort



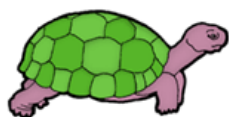
An oyster fossil



A soldier's boot



A tree



A turtle



A cannon



A raccoon

Natural Resource:

Something that can be found in an environment independent of the presence of humans.

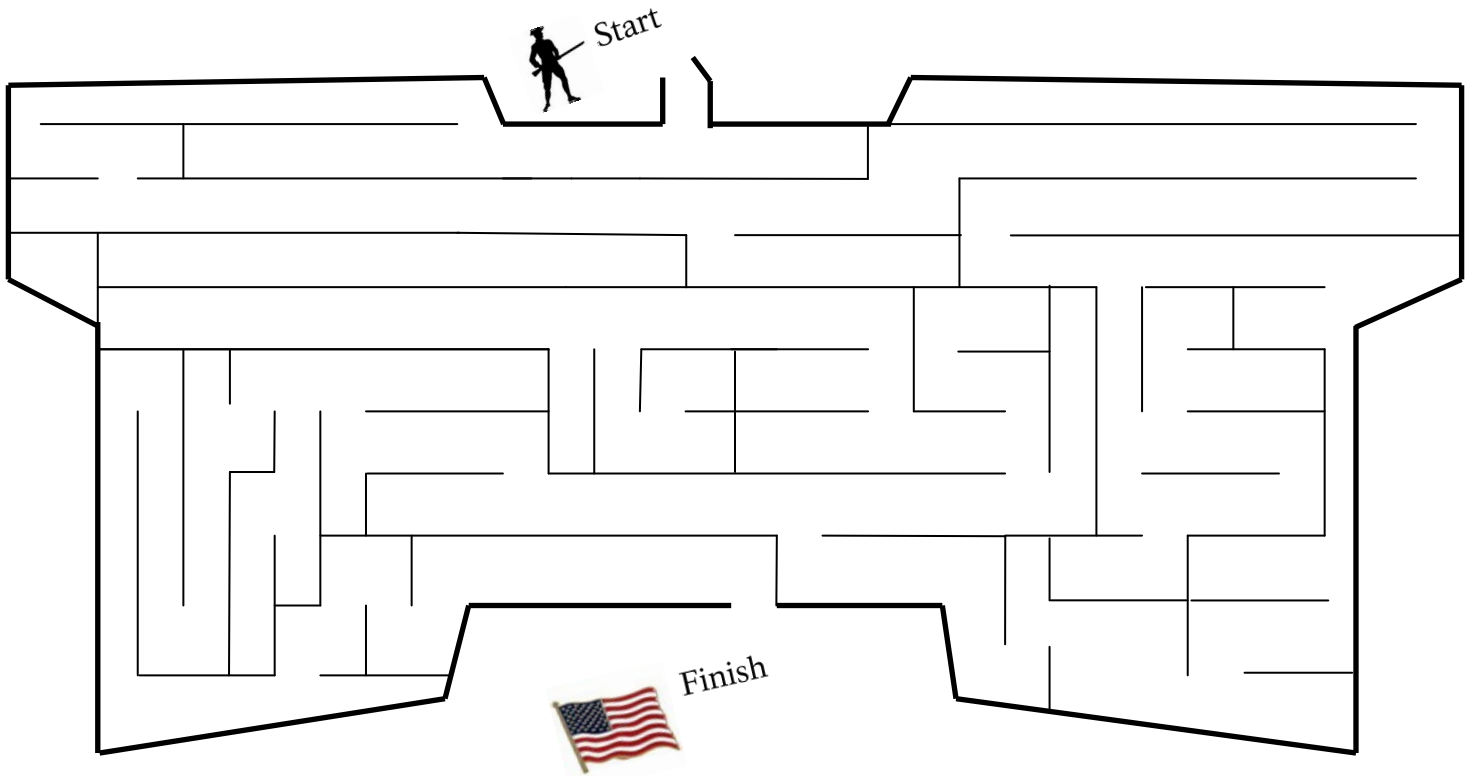
Cultural Resource:

Something that has value due to its historical or archeological significance.

2

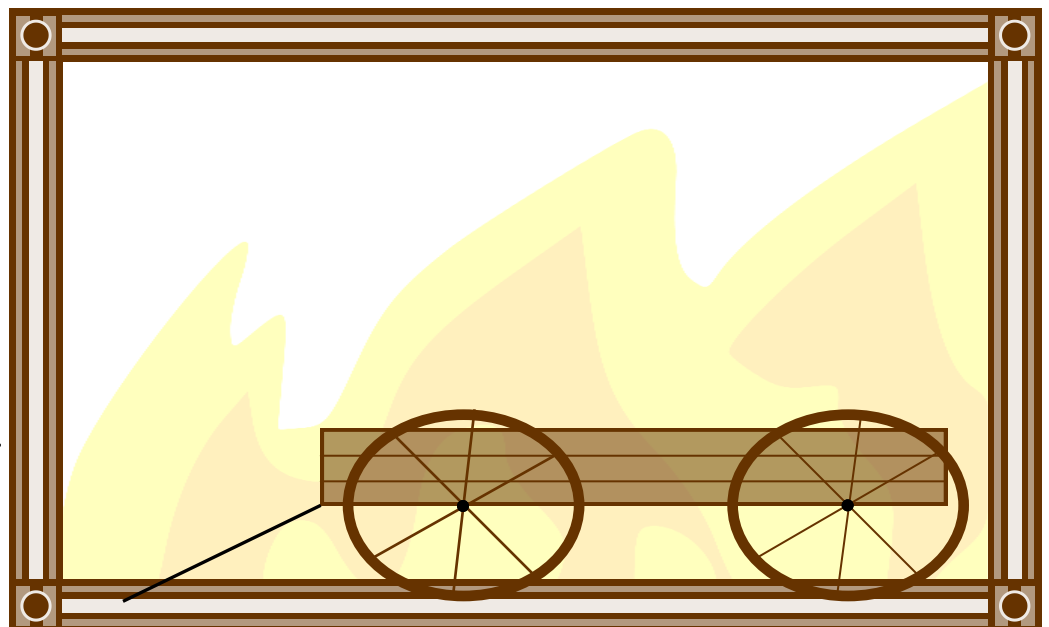
Navigating the Fort

One of the first things a new soldier had to do was learn to navigate his way through the fort. See if you can help our soldier navigate his way through the fort.

**3**

Get Out of Town

In August of 1814, the British Army was closing in on the City of Washington. Many of the citizens fled with only what they could carry or fit into a small wagon. The First Lady, Dolley Madison, made sure to rescue a huge portrait of George Washington before she left town. If you had only moments to leave your home, what would you take? Draw a picture of it here, and remember that it has to fit on the wagon!



The Old Fort

The fort that stands today was started in 1814 and completed in 1824. Below are questions about Fort Washington. Use the word bank to answer the questions below.



August 27, 1814

Capt. Samuel T. Dyson made the decision to abandon Fort Washington. The garrison at the fort consisted of 56 men, limiting the fort to 5 operational cannons. On the morning of the 27th, a British Fleet consisting of 10 ships and mounting 173 cannons appeared on the river. By the afternoon, Capt. Dyson had received reports that the British Army was approaching. By sunset, Capt. Dyson and his officers had decided to destroy the fort so the British could not use it.

Who is Fort Washington named for?

What river flows past Fort Washington?

Who maintains the fort today?

What improvement in artillery made masonry forts obsolete?

When was the fort home to an Officer Candidate School (OCS)?

What does WAC stand for?

- | | |
|--------------------------|---------------------|
| A. George Washington | D. Potomac River |
| B. Women's Army Corps | E. Rifled artillery |
| C. National Park Service | F. World War 2 |

Hint: Fort Washington Park brochures and park signs or park website

Scavenger Hunt

See if you can find where these pictures were taken. Check the box when you find it.



☐ Enlisted Men's Barracks



☐ Canon ball



☐ Commandant's House



☐ 24-pound cannon



☐ Light 80



☐ Caponniere



☐ Fire Control Tower

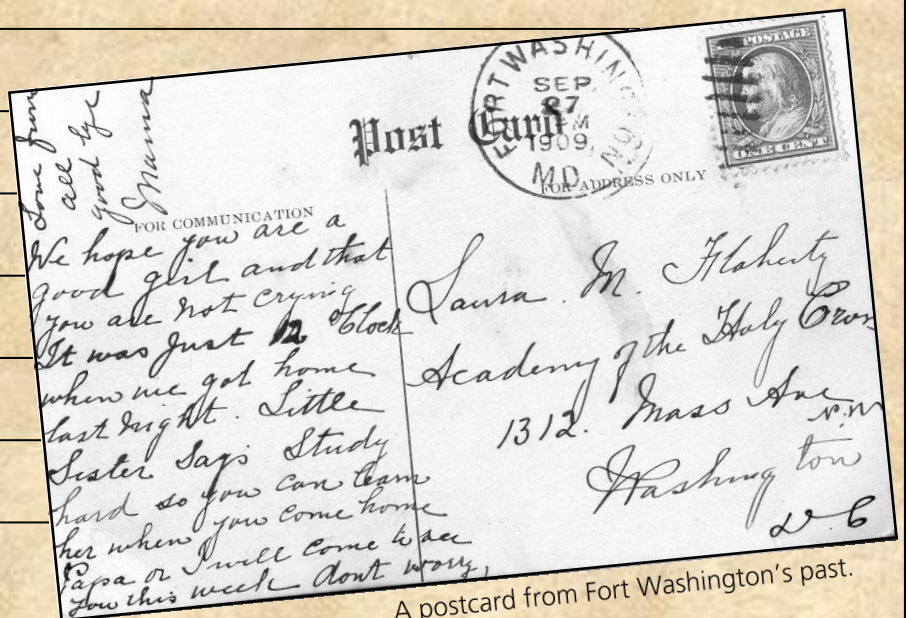
Did You Know?

Fort Washington became a national park in 1946. The National Park Service demolished over 300 buildings. Today some of the building foundations can still be found around the park.

Hint: The Fort Washington Park self guided tour

Letters Home

Many of the soldiers at Fort Washington wrote letters home. On the paper below, write a letter about your day at Fort Washington Park. What is the weather like? How did you get here? Where are you headed? Are there things at home you want to know about? What was the favorite part of your visit?



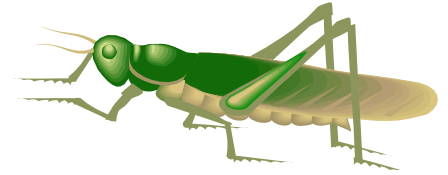
A postcard from Fort Washington's past.

Wildlife of Fort Washington

Fort Washington Park provides a great habitat for many different species of plants and animals. The forests, fields, and river provide plenty of things to eat for wildlife. Match the animal to its preferred diet by drawing a line from the animal to the type of food that each likes to eat.



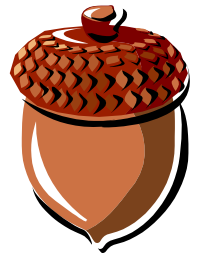
Bald eagle



Grasshopper



Woodchuck



Acorn



Eastern box turtle



Fish



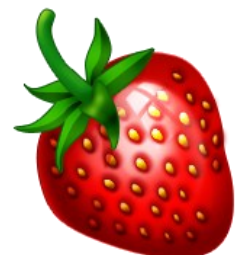
Wild turkey



Clover



White-tailed deer



Wild Strawberry

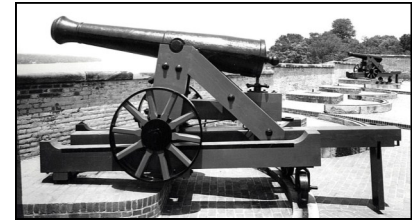
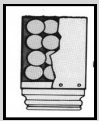
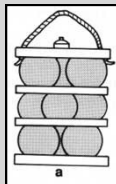
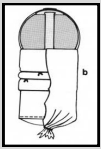
Connect the Dots

Many of the soldiers stationed at Fort Washington were trained to operate artillery. From 1808 to 1946, there were major advancements in the power and accuracy of cannons. Connect the dots below and then locate the carriages inside the fort.

Embrasure Carriage



Can you name these types of shot?



24lb Cannon

This muzzle loading cannon had a range of 1901 yards and weighed over 6000lbs on its carriage. The long muzzle helped improve accuracy.



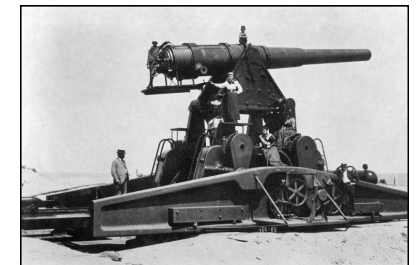
1841 Coehorn Mortar

This mortar could throw a 24lb ball accurately for 1200 yards. The small mortar could repeatedly hit the same spot.



15 inch Rodman Gun

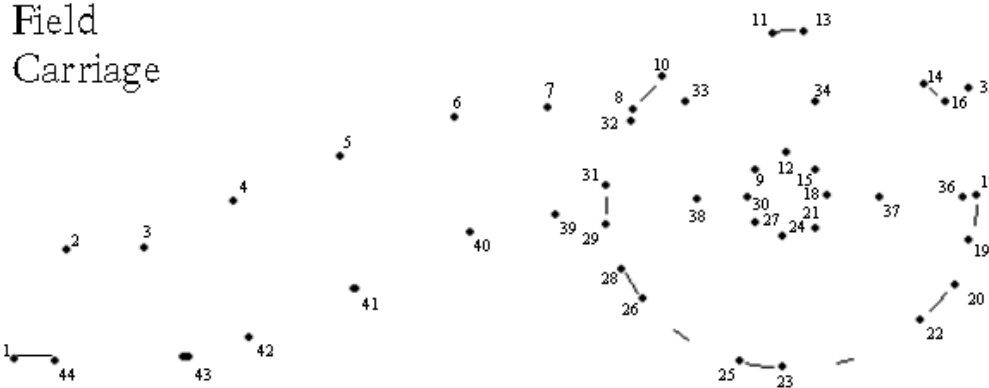
These massive smoothbore cannons weighed almost 25 tons. When loaded with a 40lbs powder charge, this cannon could launch a 454lbs shot for 3 miles.



10 inch Disappearing Gun

This rifled gun fired a 750lbs projectile accurately for 7 miles. The carriage allowed reloading in the safety of the battery.

Field Carriage



Did You Know?

In 1861, Fort Washington was the only fort protecting Washington D.C. During the Civil War, the Union Army constructed 68 forts and 93 gun batteries. By 1863, there were over 800 cannons and thousands of soldiers protecting the capital. Today, the National Park Service maintains many of the forts as part of *The Civil War Defenses of Washington*.

Hint: Visitor Center displays or website

What is in a Name?

In this word search, you can find names of men who played a role in the history of this fort. Some are the namesakes for the gun batteries. Others may have been commanders of the fort. The names of these men are in the word bank. To complete the activity, find all of the names listed in the word bank.

S	N	Y	F	K	P	C	M	A	L	T	P	W	M	M	G	E	U	N	Y
J	H	A	S	K	I	N	S	C	N	B	Y	A	F	O	O	G	S	S	L
B	S	O	S	Z	U	G	T	Y	R	E	U	S	S	H	X	N	Q	B	L
Y	E	E	A	F	I	F	H	P	Q	F	S	H	F	D	Z	N	R	N	Q
M	G	N	I	E	B	A	R	N	A	R	D	I	X	B	D	R	I	O	W
W	G	E	M	D	D	A	Y	X	T	U	W	N	H	J	J	L	Z	T	E
I	I	M	S	S	E	E	U	N	S	L	M	G	D	Y	S	O	N	E	D
L	D	W	L	Y	D	C	M	C	A	B	R	T	H	P	S	E	V	A	Q
K	O	B	M	E	Z	X	A	O	N	M	A	O	J	G	N	G	E	R	W
I	N	P	G	R	N	F	Q	T	R	K	S	N	W	D	F	T	M	O	J
N	O	Q	W	H	S	F	R	U	U	Y	G	E	I	H	S	Y	K	D	J
S	M	M	K	P	J	S	A	Y	A	R	R	C	M	I	I	J	L	M	I
Y	E	S	W	M	N	E	Q	N	K	F	O	M	M	A	S	T	S	A	R
C	F	Z	L	U	P	Z	D	W	T	T	Z	R	A	D	J	P	E	N	J
W	V	P	Z	H	M	S	T	F	T	S	A	C	I	F	J	I	E	E	L

Word Bank

ARMISTEAD	JAMES MANY
BARNARD	LEE
DECATUR	LENFANT
DIGGES	MEIGS
DYSON	MONROE
EMORY	RODMAN
ENDICOTT	WASHINGTON
HASKINS	WHITE
HUMPHREYS	WILKIN

I Spy....

Soldiers had to be very observant when they were on watch in the fort. If you were on watch, how many things do you think you would observe? Choose a spot at the front of the fort entrance and look out into the fort and count to ten. Then turn around and draw what you remember in the space provided below. Then, turn back around to see how many things you were able to remember and where they were placed? How many did you get?



Take a Second Look

A good Junior Ranger has an eye for detail. Below are two almost identical photos. See if you can spot four differences in the photos and then circle them.



About the Visitor Center

This is the Visitor Center of Fort Washington Park today, but originally it was the Commandant's house. It was built in 1822. The yellow whitewash paint helped hold the mortar together. Unlike enlisted men, the officers at the fort would have had the privilege of living with their families.

Unable to complete this activity during your visit and would like to receive your badge?
Mail your finished book to:

Fort Washington Park
Attn: Junior Ranger Program
13551 Fort Washington Road
Fort Washington, Maryland 20744

Contact us through our website at: www.nps.gov/fowa/contacts.htm

Would you like to have more Junior Ranger fun?
Become a Web Ranger at: www.nps.gov/webrangers.





Certificate of Completion

This certifies that

_____ is awarded the title of

Fort Washington Park Junior Ranger

_____ Park Ranger

_____ Date



Fort Washington passport stamp

Junior Ranger Field Notes

Use this space to record or draw interesting things that you saw while visiting Fort Washington Park!

Congratulations on becoming a Junior Ranger!

There are other national parks in southern Maryland that have Junior Ranger programs including Oxon Hill Farm and Piscataway Park . Visit these other parks and ask about their Junior Ranger program.

